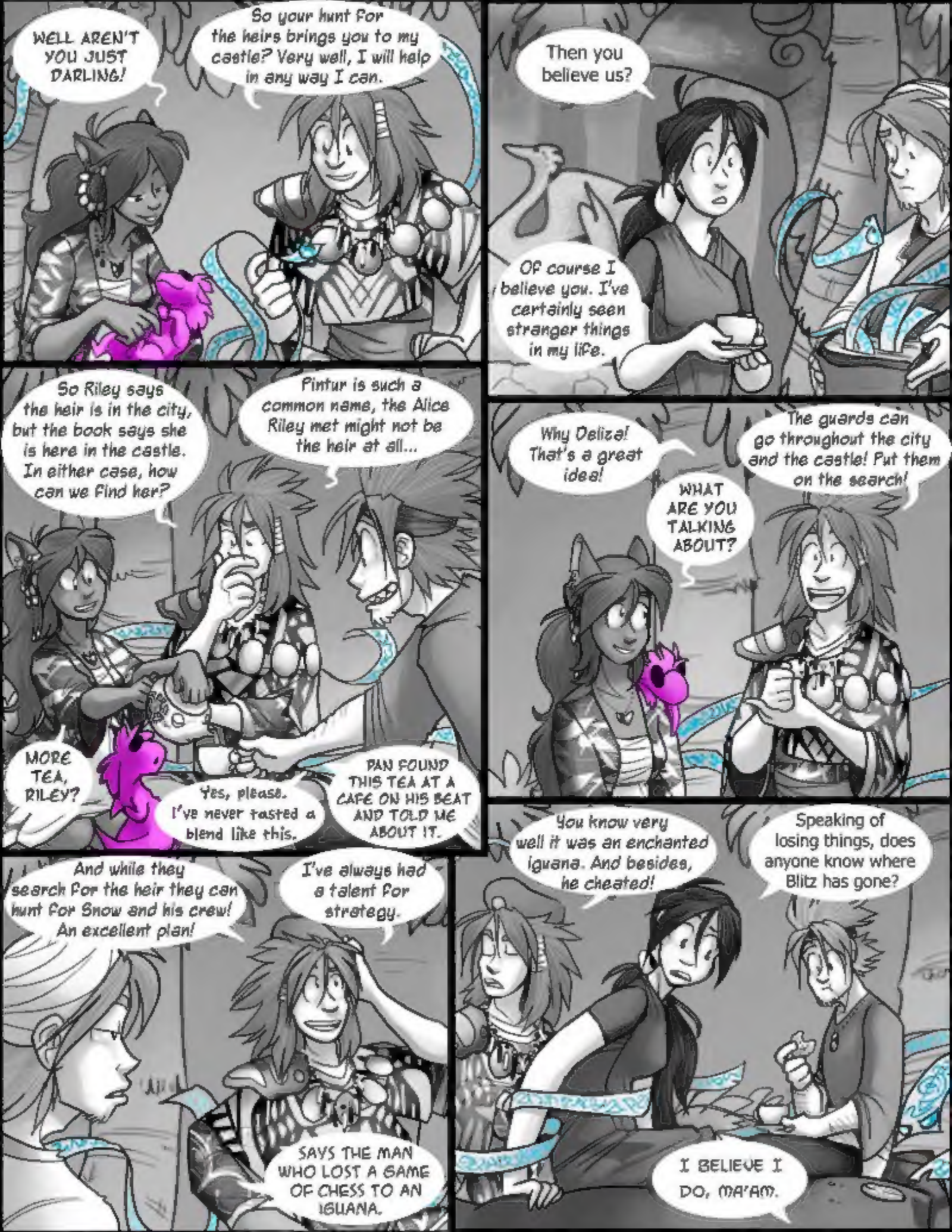
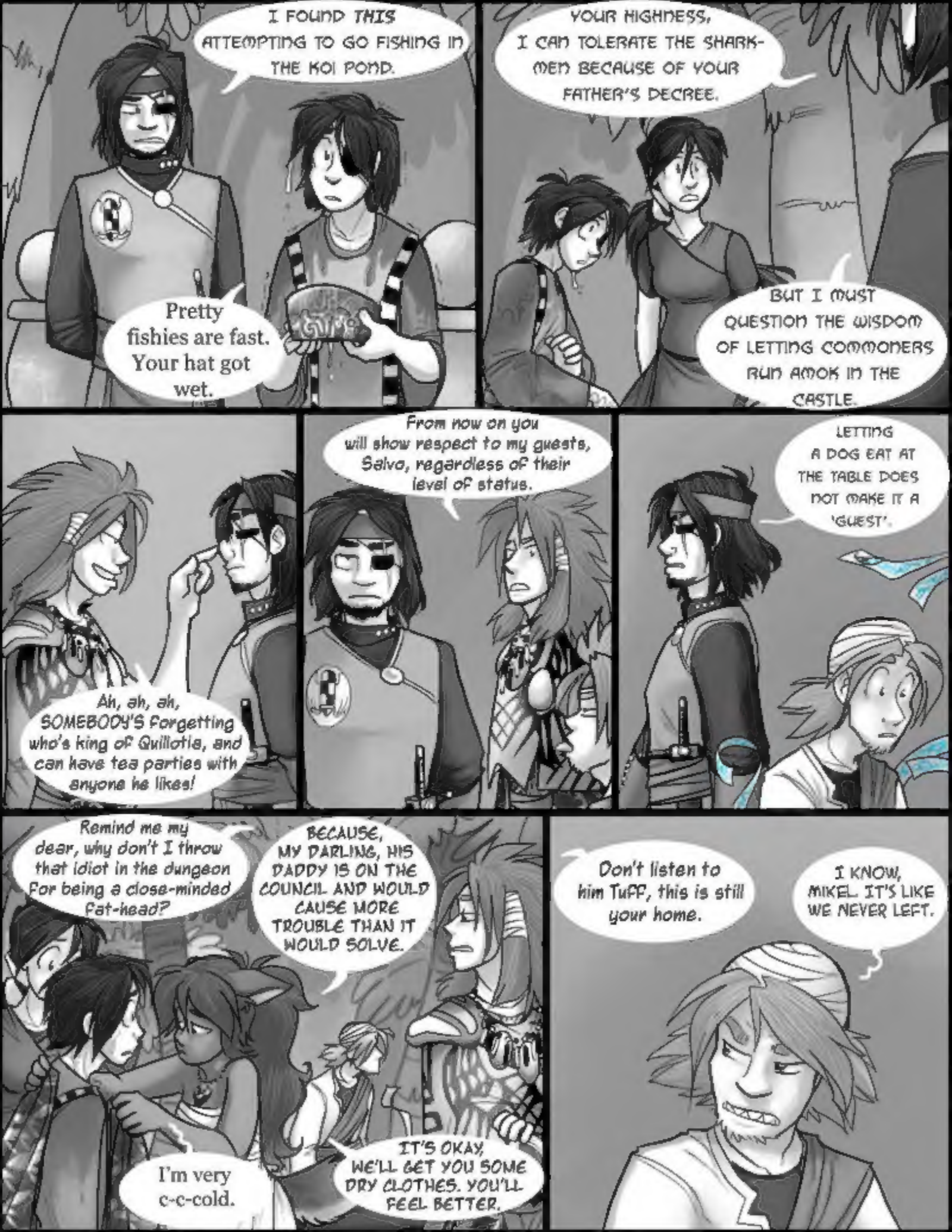
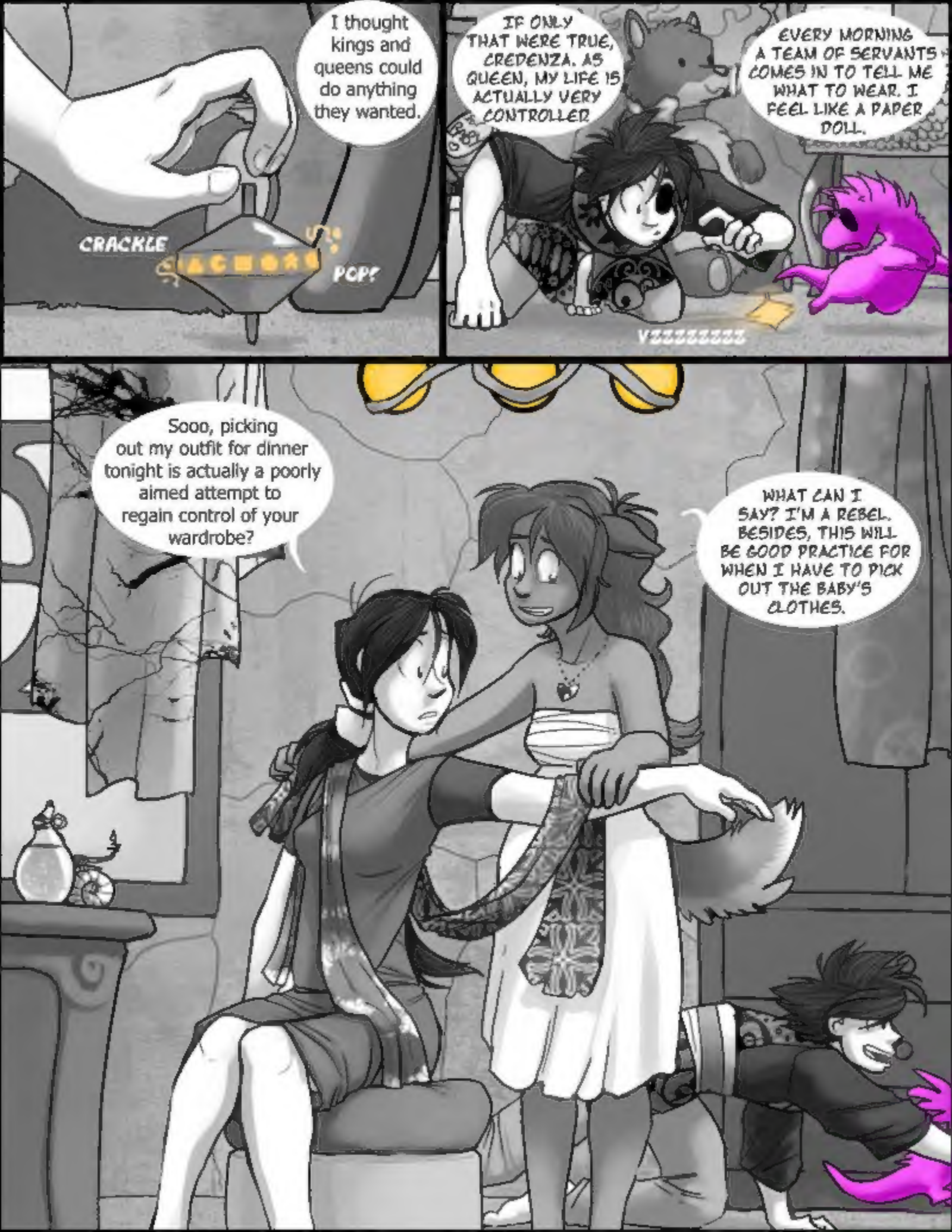
So now that we've heard the tale of how my dearest cousins came to be...
How did they come to travel with such curious companions?
I hate to dissapoint you, your majesty, but Tuff and I are not a couple.
"sigh" A pity, I had hoped he had overcome his shyness around pretty girls.
But then why DID you return to this castle of Tuff's birth?
It's a long and complicated story, your highness.
Well I just happen to ADORE long and complicated stories. Please, just call me Mikel.
If you're a friend of Riley and Tuff's, you're a friend of mine.
PLOP!
You're wearing the crown of Quillotia, my friend. What's your first decree?
I... I want a muffin!
My friend, we're royalty. We don't have muffins.
Oh...
We have crumpets!
Oooooh?


WELL AREN'T YOU JUST DARLING!
So your hunt for the heirs brings you to my castle? Very well, I will help in any way I can.
Then you believe us?
Of course I believe you. I've certainly seen stranger things in my life.
So Riley says the heir is in the city, but the book says she is here in the castle. In either case, how can we find her?
Pintur is such a common name, the Alice Riley met might not be the heir at all...
Why Deliza! That's a great idea!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
The guards can go throughout the city and the castle! Put them on the search!
MORE TEA, RILEY?
Yes, please. I've never tasted a blend like this.
PAN FOUND THIS TEA AT A CAFE ON HIS BEAT AND TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
You know very well it was an enchanted iguana. And besides, he cheated!
Speaking of losing things, does anyone know where Blitz has gone?
And while they search for the heir they can hunt for Snow and his crew! An excellent plan!
I've always had a talent for strategy.
SAYS THE MAN WHO LOST A GAME OF CHESS TO AN IGUANA.
I BELIEVE I DO, MA'AM.

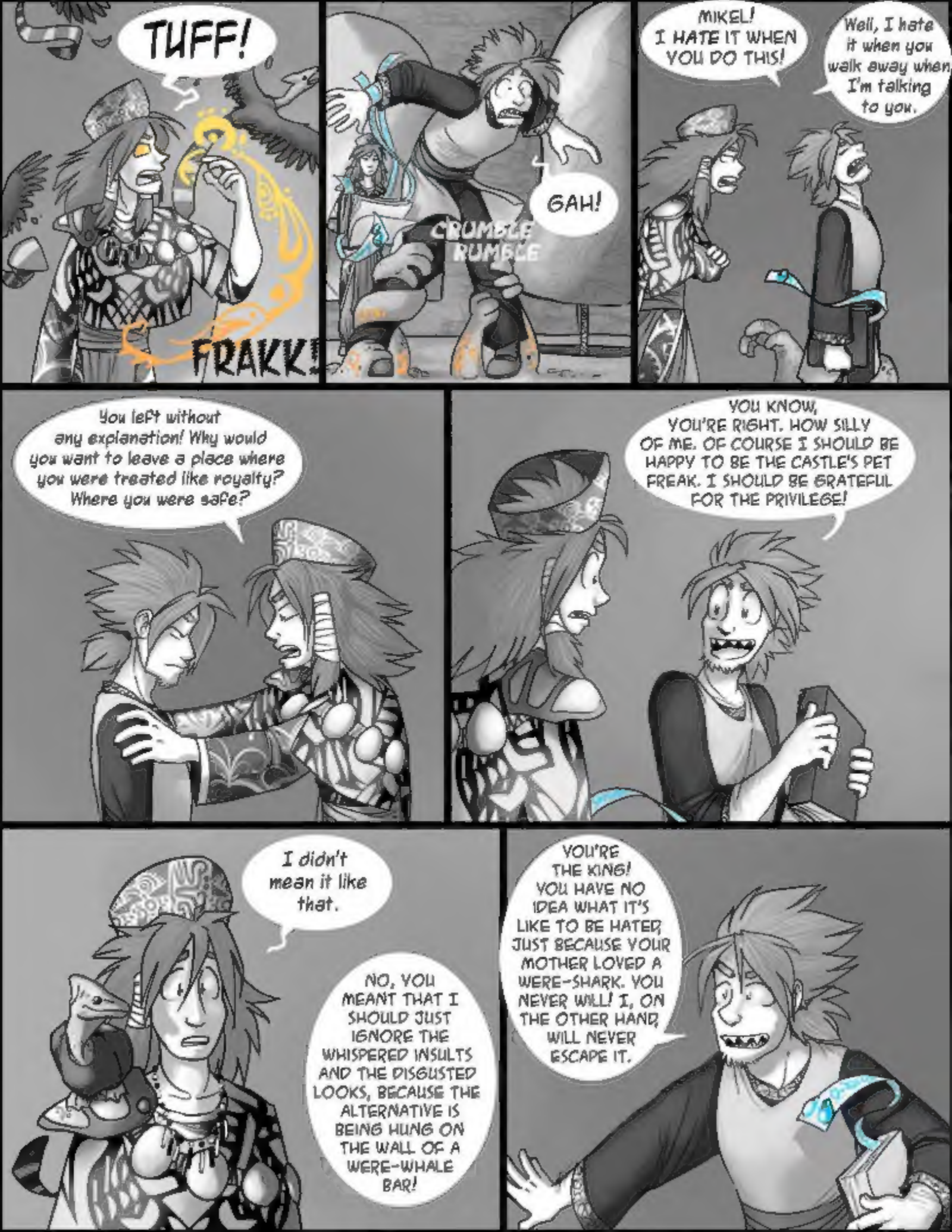

I FOUND THIS ATTEMPTING TO GO FISHING IN THE KOI POND.
Pretty fishies are fast. Your hat got wet.
YOUR HIGHNESS, I CAN TOLERATE THE SHARK-MEN BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER'S DECREE.
BUT I MUST QUESTION THE WISDOM OF LETTING COMMONERS RUN AMOK IN THE CASTLE.
Ah, ah, ah, SOMEBODY'S forgetting who's king of Quillotia, and can have tea parties with anyone he likes!
From now on you will show respect to my guests, Salva, regardless of their level of status.
LETTING A DOG EAT AT THE TABLE DOES NOT MAKE IT A 'GUEST'.
Remind me my dear, why don't I throw that idiot in the dungeon for being a close-minded fat-head?
BECAUSE, MY DARLING, HIS DADDY IS ON THE COUNCIL AND WOULD CAUSE MORE TROUBLE THAN IT WOULD SOLVE.
I'm very c-c-cold.
IT'S OKAY, WE'LL GET YOU SOME DRY CLOTHES. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
Don't listen to him Tuff, this is still your home.
I KNOW, MIKEL. IT'S LIKE WE NEVER LEFT.


I thought kings and queens could do anything they wanted.
CRACKLE
POP!
IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE, CREDENZA. AS QUEEN, MY LIFE IS ACTUALLY VERY CONTROLLED
EVERY MORNING A TEAM OF SERVANTS COMES IN TO TELL ME WHAT TO WEAR. I FEEL LIKE A PAPER DOLL.
VZZZZZZZZZ
Sooo, picking out my outfit for dinner tonight is actually a poorly aimed attempt to regain control of your wardrobe?
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A REBEL. BESIDES, THIS WILL BE GOOD PRACTICE FOR WHEN I HAVE TO PICK OUT THE BABY'S CLOTHES.

I admit, I'm not much for dressing up, but after hanging out with men for so long...
I UNDERSTAND YOU NEED SOME GIRL TIME.
So how about some girl stories? Tell me how you and Mikel met!
ACTUALLY, OUR FATHERS SET US UP
Still, you're both so good together, it must have been love at first sight.
QUITE THE OPPOSITE ACTUALLY. WHEN WE FIRST MET, WE FELT TOTALLY INCOMPATIBLE.
HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT ARCHITECTURE. I WAS INTERESTED IN GARDENING.
HE ADORED FENCING AND RIDING. I WAS ALREADY PINING AFTER MY LIBRARY AT HOME.
HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT MY HOMELAND. I WAS SO SHY I COULD BARELY SPEAK.
FORTUNATELY, WE BOTH ENJOYED DANCING.
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGEMENT, I ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION. IT WAS THE SMARTEST THING I'VE EVER DONE.

UP TILL THEN I HAD ONLY DANCED WITH MY FAMILY I WAS TERRIBLY NERVOUS.
BUT I GOT OVER IT.
WHERE CONVERSATION HAD FAILED TO FORM A CONNECTION, DANCE SUCCEEDED WE WERE EVENLY MATCHED, ANTICIPATING EACH OTHER'S STEPS.
HE PROPOSED LATER THAT NIGHT. IT WOULD BE A YEAR BEFORE I WOULD SAY YES.
IT WOULD TAKE THAT LONG FOR MY BRAIN TO ACCEPT WHAT MY HEART ALREADY KNEW.

WELL BOOK, IF ALICE WERE IN THE CASTLE I THINK MIKEL AND THE GUARDS WOULD KNOW BY NOW.
PERHAPS SHE'S NOT HERE NOW, BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE.
NYARP! NYARP!
Well, hello Tuff! I knew you'd be up here.
Mr.Tuff always comes here to hide, yes he does, yeshidue!
MIKEL...
In fact, the whole castle has felt empty without those two shark brothers running around.
Don't mind me, I'm just here to feed the tower gulls. You won't even know I'm here.
The bell tower just isn't the same without Mister Pout-Fish brooding in it.
It makes you wonder, why would he leave at all? Was remaining in the castle too much to ask of him? Did he really hate it here so much?
Tuff! Don't you run away again. You know I'm not just talking to the birds! Get back here!
Tuff! Tuff!


TUFF!
FRAKK!
GAH!
CRUMBLE
RUMBLE
MIKEL! I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THIS!
Well, I hate it when you walk away when I'm talking to you.
You left without any explanation! Why would you want to leave a place where you were treated like royalty? Where you were safe?
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW SILLY OF ME. OF COURSE I SHOULD BE HAPPY TO BE THE CASTLE'S PET FREAK. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIVILEGE!
I didn't mean it like that.
NO, YOU MEANT THAT I SHOULD JUST IGNORE THE WHISPERED INSULTS AND THE DISGUSTED LOOKS, BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE IS BEING HUNG ON THE WALL OF A WERE-WHALE BAR!
YOU'RE THE KING! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE HATED JUST BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER LOVED A WERE-SHARK. YOU NEVER WILL! I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL NEVER ESCAPE IT.

If someone was giving you trouble, Tuff, you should have come to me.
IT WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY GOOD.
Any good?! You see this hat? This is the king hat! It means that what I say goes!
IF I tell them not to give you dirty looks or call you names, they will obey me!
MIKEL, THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.
EVEN IF YOU CHANGED THEIR ACTIONS, YOU COULDN'T CHANGE THEIR FEELINGS. PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS SEEN ME AS A MONSTER, THEY ALWAYS WILL.
SOMETIMES, I THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT.
CRACK-BOOM!
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF